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INFO RUEHCR/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 5818  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 07053

DEPT PASS SENATOR LUGAR'S OFFICE AS PER SENATOR BAKER'S  
INSTRUCTIONS:

E.O. 12065: RDS-1 6/1/02 (TAYLOR, JOHN) GR-P  
TAGS: CARR, CASC, CH (WICHSER, LISA L)  
SUBJ: SENATOR BAKER RAISES WICHSER CASE WITH ZHANG WENJIN  
1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY. SENATOR BAKER RAISED THE WICHSER CASE WITH VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ZHANG WENJIN, EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. ZHANG SAID THAT HE WAS NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE CASE BUT HE ASSURED THE SENATOR THAT THE CHINESE WOULD HANDLE THIS CASE AND ALL FUTURE CASES IN STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. END SUMMARY.

3. BAKER: I'D LIKE TO RAISE ONE OTHER MATTER, BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION BY THE AMBASSADOR. IT DEALS WITH THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. ON MY WAY TO THE MEETING WITH THE VICE CHAIRMAN, I WAS APPROACHED ON THE STEPS BY A NEWSMAN WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT AN AMERICAN WOMAN DETAINED BY THE AUTHORITIES IN CHINA. HER FAMILY AND THE SENATORS OF HER STATE HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN. IT RELATES TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION BUT IT IS A MATTER THAT COULD GROW INTO AN ISSUE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I HOPE IT WILL NOT, THAT IT CAN BE ADDRESSED, AND THAT A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION CAN BE ARRIVED AT.

- ZHANG: I'M NOT TOO CLEAR ON THAT PROBLEM. I HAVE HEARD A LITTLE ABOUT IT. YOU KNOW, BECAUSE OF A RECENT REDIVISION OF LABOR, I AM NOW IN CHARGE OF RELATIONS WITH WEST EUROPE. I BELIEVE SHE WAS DETAINED BECAUSE SHE VIOLATED CHINESE LAW. I WILL CONVEY YOUR WISH TO THE CONCERNED AUTHORITIES. THE CHINESE SIDE WILL HANDLE ANY PROBLEMS BY STRICT ADHERENCE TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION.

- BAKER: THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN. THE CONSULAR CONVENTION IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO ME BECAUSE I HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS RATIFICATION IN THE SENATE. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR TEST THAT THE CONVENTION HAS UNDERGONE. I HOPE THAT THE PROBLEM CAN BE WORKED OUT.

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- ZHANG: I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY ANYTHING MORE BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IN ANY SIMILAR CASES, CHINA WILL STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION AND I BELIEVE THAT THE CONVENTION HAS STOOD THE MAJOR TEST.

- BAKER: I KNOW NOTHING OF THE FACTS. I MAKE NO REPRESENTATION. BUT THE AMBASSADOR TELLS ME THAT SOME OF HIS OFFICERS HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY IN MAKING CONTACT. I HOPE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY RELATING TO CONTACT, READING MATTER CAN BE LOOKED AT CLOSELY.

- ZHANG: THE EMBASSY CAN KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

- BAKER: YOU UNDERSTAND MY CONCERN. I WILL RETURN TO MY COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE AND CAN ASSURE THEM OF YOUR INTEREST IN THIS MATTER.

HUMMEL  
END OF MESSAGE

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